

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4683

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CSCE

SUBJ: CSCE - MEETING WITH SOVIET DELEGATION 29 AUGUST

SUMMARY: AT SOVIET INVITATION VEST MET WITH SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD DEPUTY FONMIN KOVALEV EVENING 29 AUGUST FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF APPROACH TO CSCE ISSUES. MENDELEVICH ALSO PRESENT. KOVALEV REPEATED KNOWN SOVIET POSITIONS. MEETING SERVED TO CONTINUE REGULAR FRANK EXCHANGES THAT DEVELOPED DURING MPT. END SUMMARY.

1. KOVALEV STRESSED SOVIET APPRECIATION FOR BI-LATERAL CONTACTS DURING MPT AND HOPED THEY WOULD CONTINUE. VEST AGREED AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SOVIET DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY AND FINISH CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. KOVALEV NODDED EMPHATICALLY. FOR HIS PART, VEST SAID WE TOO WISHED TO FINISH AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, COMPATIBLE WITH THOROUGH JOB. WE WOULD WORK TO AVOID DELAYS OR FOOTDRAGGING. DURING SECOND PHASE, US DELEGATION WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK AS IT DID DURING MPT, CONFIDENTIAL
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SUPPORTING PROPOSALS WHICH WE CONSIDER DESIRABLE, BUT
LOOKING FOR RASONABLE COMPROMISES RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION.

2. ON AGENDA ITEM I, SECURITY, VEST SAID US COULD ACCEPT WORKING GROUP ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTS AS DESIRED BY NEUTRALS. ON CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES (CBMS), VEST SAID WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO HANDLE MAJOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS WITH TACT AND DIPLOMACY; THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO SCUTTLE CONSIDERATION OF IT. SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES AND NEUTRALS ARE STRONGLY INTERESTED IN IT. THIS WAS WHY AT HELSINKI WE HAD FOUND A COMPROMISE TO "STUDY" THE AREA - AND THIS WAS WHAT WE WOULD HAVE TO DO AT GENEVA, THUS CONFORMING STRICTLY TO THE AGENDA. MENDELEVICH AGREED - BOTH TO SOVIET WISH TO SCUTTLE SUBJECT AND NEED TO STUDY DIPLOMATICALLY. AS FOR FOLLOW-UP TO CSCE, VEST SAID IT WELL KNOWN THAT US NOT ENTHUSIASTIC AND CONSIDERS IT TOO EARLY TO MOVE BEYOND ARRANGEMENTS OF HELSINKI RECOMMENDATIONS (PARA 53). ON QUESTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALGERIA AND TUNISIA, VEST INDICATED US COULD ACCEPT ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH LIMITED CONTRIBUTION STRICTLY TO AGREED AGENDA ITEMS, PROVIDED EQUAL TREATMENT FOR OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, AND KEPT MIDEAST DISPUTES OUT OF CSCE.

3. KOVALEV EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CLARIFICATIONS. SOVIETS DO NOT WANT SECOND STAGE TO REPEAT MPT BUT TO WORK ON DOCUMENTS FOR THIRD STAGE, IN ORDER THAT CONFERENCE MAY FINISH THIS YEAR. SOVIETS COULD ACCEPT A RECESS BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD STAGES BUT OTHERWISE HOPED THAT CONFERENCE WILL WORK AS CONTINUOUSLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT US WOULD COOPERATE TO THIS END.

4. ON SECURITY, KOVALEV ASKED WHAT PROBLEMS EXIST IN THE AREA OF PRINCIPLES WHICH MIGHT CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. VEST NOTED BERLIN SITUATION WHERE FOUR POWERS RETAIN CERTAIN RIGHTS. KOVALEV REPLIED THAT THIS WAS CERTAINLY OF INTEREST ALSO TO PARIS AND LONDON AND ITS TREATMENT SHOULD NOT COME UP AS A SURPRISE DURING STAGE TWO. ON PERSONAL BASIS KOVALEV SUGGESTED SOVIET DRAFT PRINCIPLES INCLUDED PROVISION WHICH WOULD PROTECT FOUR POWER RIGHTS IN BERLIN UNDER POTSDAM AGREEMENTS; THIS WAS INTENT OF LANGUAGE WHICH STATES THAT PRINCIPLES APPLY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY PREVIOUSLY SIGNED BI-LATERAL OR MULTI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS. CONTINUING, KOVALEV STRESSED IN FAMILIAR TERMS PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO SOVIETS OF INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS.
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5. ON CBMS KOVALEV SAID MANEUVERS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM MAJOR TROP MOVEMENTS. IN PRINCIPLE, SOVIETS WILL PROCEED ALONG LINES OF HELSINKI RECOMMENDATIONS AND WILL THINK ABOUT CSCE WORK ON TROOP MOVEMENTS IN TERMS OF "STUDY".

6. ON QUESTION OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, KOVALEV SAID SOVIETS HAD NO SPECIAL ENTHUSIASM FOR SWISS PROPOSALS (REAL UNDERSTATEMENT). HERE TOO, EMPHASIS IN SOVIET APPROACH WOULD BE ON WORD "STUDY". THEY COULD ACCEPT WORKING

GROUP BUT PREFERRED NOT TO HAVE SEPARATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. KOVALEV SAW NO INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS UNDER COOPERATION ITEM. ON HUMAN CONTACTS HE SAID SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO HAVE BUSINESS-LIKE DISCUSSIONS BUT THERE SHOULD BE BALANCE AMONG AGENDA POINTS. SOVIET IDEAS ON ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEES (4 SUB-COMMITTEES FOR ITEM THREE) SHOWED THEY PREPARED TO GIVE EQUAL TREATMENT TO HUMAN CONTACTS EVEN THOUGH THEY CONSIDER SECURITY ITEM MORE IMPORTANT. USSR AND US SHOULD NOT TRY TO PUT EACH OTHER IN AWKWARD POSITIONS AND SHOULD PREVENT OTHERS FROM MAKING PROPOSALS WHICH COULD BRING ABOUT CONFRONTATION. IN DISCUSSION OF HUMAN CONTACTS, SOVIETS WILL CONTINUE TO INSIST ON RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGN NATIONAL RIGHTS AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

8. KOVALEV EXPLAINED SOVIET PROPOSAL TO SET UP WORKING GROUP OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO STUDY FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE WHICH SOVIETS TABLED AUGUST 29. WORKING GROUP ENVISAGED WOULD NOT START WORK IMMEDIATELY BUT WOULD BE IN REFRIGERATOR TO START WORK LATER WHEN COORDINATING COMMITTEE DECIDED. VEST SAID WE PREFERRED TO LEAVE SUBJECT WITH COORDINATING COMMITTEE, BUT IF SOVIET PROPOSAL FOUND GENERAL ACCEPTANCE WE WOULD NOT OBJECT.

9. ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, KOVALEV SAID SOVIETS DO NOT WANT MEDITERRANEAN OR MIDDLE-EAST PROBLEMS AT CSCE. ALGERIANS AND TUNISIANS COULD CONVEY WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS ONLY ON POINTS OF AGENDA BUT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION AND NO PERSONAL APPEARANCES. SOVIETS WANT TO EXCLUDE ALL EASTERN
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MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES ENTIRELY SINCE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS SO LIKELY TO RAISE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND BRING ABOUT EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION. VEST POINTED OUT THAT BY ADMITTING TWO ARAB COUNTRIES AND EXCLUDING ISRAEL, THE MIDDLE-EAST ISSUE WILL ALREADY HAVE BEEN RAISED AT CSCE. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GIVE EQUAL TREATMENT AND ACCEPT WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS WITHOUT DEBATE.

10. KOVALEV SAID SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE TO "INSIST" ON THIRD STAGE OF CSCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. MILLER

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